

February 11, 2015

Situation Report: Tulane National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) Incident

Situation Summary

- Two macaques at Tulane's National Primate Research Center (TNPRC) were infected with the bacteria *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (the cause of Melioidosis). One animal was euthanized on Nov. 26 and the remaining animal has recovered. *According to the CDC *Burkholderia Pseudomallei* is a bacterium endemic to Southeast Asia and Northern Australia, and is typically found in contaminated water and soil. It is spread through direct contact with the contaminated source.

*Source: CDC <http://www.cdc.gov/melioidosis/>

- A USDA employee has tested positive for antibodies to *Burkholderia Pseudomallei*. Further investigation is being done to find out if, when, and where the person was exposed to *Burkholderia Pseudomallei*. The employee was discharged from the hospital Sunday February 8, 2015. The person's travel history does include a visit to a region that may have provided an opportunity for exposure. Federal and state agencies are aggressively trying to determine if the illness was related to the facility visit or past travel.
- All Select Agent Research at TNPRC has been suspended.

Incident Objectives

1	Investigation process - On Campus: To identify, isolate, remediate and prevent further transmission of BP on campus grounds.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC is currently investigating measures to put into place to limit further exposure to <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i>.
Sampling Objectives:	
1.1	To conduct serological sampling to determine potential parameters of transmission exposure.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serum was collected on February 10, 2015, from 17 individuals (16-St. Tammany, 1-Atlanta) Risk questionnaires were administered to all who gave blood, collecting information about previous exposures, travel, health issues and activities

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	<p>while at the facility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> APHIS Patient has been released from hospital and continues to receive treatment.
1.2	To conduct air sampling to determine potential of aerosolized transmission.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA is currently collecting daily air samples and shipping to CDC. EPA is developing a sampling plan for the North Campus, where laboratory, animal hospital, and administrative buildings are housed. Results are estimated to take 1 to 2 weeks once sent to the lab
1.3	To conduct soil sampling within the cages to validate spread of BP in cage-soil.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tulane personnel with oversight from EPA collected a total of 5 samples from the two pens which housed the infected primates today, February 11, 2015. One surface soil sample was collected from pen R24. This pen has a mostly gravel floor so only one sample was collected. Four samples were collected in pen G12. Two (4 point composite) surface soil samples were collected and two grab samples from a depth of approximately 20 inches were collected. All samples collected today will be shipped out with tomorrow's samples to the CDC laboratory in Atlanta. Results are estimated to take 1 to 2 weeks once sent to the lab
1.4	To conduct soil sampling outside the cages to determine if Burkholderia pseudomallei has spread beyond enclosures
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tulane sampling team collected a total of 35 soil samples on February 10, 2015. The locations included the areas surrounding the two cages where the infected primates were kept as well as several locations in storm water ditches adjacent to the cages. The samples were shipped along with 3 air samples to the CDC lab in Atlanta. Results are estimated to take 1 to 2 weeks once sent to the lab
1.5	To conduct water sampling around the compound and at discharge points to determine if BP is growing in water discharges.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Water samples were collected and sent to CDC for analysis on February 9, 2015. Results are estimated to take 1 to 2 weeks once sent to the lab

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<u>Remediation Objectives:</u>	
1.6	To conduct remediation of enclosures where infected animals were - or are - located.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA will work with Tulane on a decontamination plan for pens (utilizing results of serology to better define plan) and enclosures
1.7	To conduct remediation outside the cages based on soil sampling results.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA will work with Tulane on a decontamination plan for pens (utilizing results of serology to better define plan) and enclosures
1.8	To identify potential mitigation activities should air and/or water samples come back positive.
<u>Status</u>	
2	Surrounding Area - Off Campus: To conduct risk assessment(s) within a meaningful vicinity outside the compound to ascertain need for further sampling wildlife, livestock, and other potential at-risk animals.
2.1	To conduct risk survey of animals in the area and determine whether these animals require further testing.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USDA: Samples were taken from higher risk primates on February 10, 2015 (43 samples taken) CDC received the 43 samples taken for the primates from Tulane on February 11, 2015
2.2	To utilize findings from the investigative process to determine need for further mitigation activities outside the compound.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional CDC and NIOSH personnel have arrived. NIOSH will handle all occupational health issues CDC will handle all of the infectious disease epidemiology issues.
3	Public Communications
3.1	To formalize JIC members under CDC level
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JIC has been formalized
3.2	To develop Frequently Asked Questions document in readiness for public dissemination.
<u>Status</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress

Actions to date

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IC Group Meeting set for Wednesday February 12, 2015 at 9:00am

CDC

- Additional CDC and NIOSH personnel have arrived.
- 2 Select Agent inspectors and NIOSH personnel will conduct further investigations and interviews. The team will do a thorough review of all protocols and standard operating procedures at TNPRC, and will review video footage.
- CDC infectious Disease Epidemiology will investigate if any broader public health impacts exist.
- CDC sent protocols for shipping to DHH, and serological testing of high risk individuals were taken on February 11, 2015.
- Select Agents Investigation provided follow-up interviews with 10 Tulane staff.
- All *B. Pseudomallei* inventory was audited and found to be accurate with the facility numbers.
- CDC PIO Monitoring press coverage and responding to queries
- Safety Update
 - CDC/NIOSH provided updates to federal safety plan and submission to Tulane for review by safety officer. Safety Plan was finalized and Tulane biosafety officer has been designated as the Safety Officer in the plan.
- Animal Investigation
 - Discussions with USDA and other partners regarding sampling plan sites.
 - CDC organized an 11 am CDT call with participation of the Tulane laboratory scientist, TNPRC management, CDC (Alex Hoffmaster and his team, Henry Walke), USDA, and LA including the State Health Officer, State Epidemiologist, and State Veterinarian. The call discussed the approach regarding interpretation of laboratory results.
 - CDC received 43 sera from Tulane on 2/11.
- Human Investigation
 - Participated with interagency discussion regarding risk levels and testing needs. General consensus reached. FAQ related to sample collection, storage and confidentiality.
 - Developed script to communicate testing options with those possibly exposed and provided to State Epi for contacting and informing participants from 2/10 sampling event. Follow up will request participants to select testing or banking of their samples.
 - Obtained access to risk surveys of workers and in progress of reviewing.
 - CDC received 1 human serum specimen from Emory on 2/11.
- Environmental Investigation
 - CDC received Soil and air samples received from EPA and Tulane on 2/11.
 - Discussions with EPA regarding testing sites and plan regarding decontamination if positive tests.
- Select Agents Investigation
 - *B. pseudomallei* inventory stock audit completed. Inventory is accurate and current.
 - Four of seven persons of interest by DSAT were interviewed today, including one individual who is no longer employed by TNPRC. Three of these individuals are in the process of demonstrating their donning and doffing procedures to DSAT inspectors at this time.
- Communications
 - CDC PIO continues to monitor press coverage and respond to queries.

USDA

- Collected samples from 43 primates within the facility on February 10, 2015.
- Currently working on a future plan to capture rats and cats for testing

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EPA

- Tulane samplers with oversight from EPA Contractors collected 13 water samples from various locations on the South Campus and shipped to the CDC laboratory in Atlanta.
- Daily air samples collected from locations around the South Campus and have been shipped to CDC Atlanta.
- Soil samples have been collected from 35 locations outside of the cages on the South Campus and shipped to CDC.
- Today, February 11, 2015, Tulane personnel with oversight from EPA collected a total of 5 samples from the two pens which housed the infected primates.
- One surface soil sample was collected from pen R24. This pen has a mostly gravel floor so only one sample was collected.
- Four samples were collected in pen G12. Two (4 point composite) surface soil samples were collected and two grab samples from a depth of approximately 20 inches were collected.
- All samples collected today will be shipped out with tomorrow's samples to the CDC laboratory in Atlanta.
- Results from the testing are estimated to take 1 to 2 weeks once sent to the lab.

OPH

- Attending daily UCG meetings at the St. Tammany EOC to obtain visibility on multi-agency response activities;
- Participating in TNPRC conference calls to offer epidemiologic opinion;
- Serving as liaison between CDC subject matter experts and the State Health Officer;
- Serving as liaison between subject matter experts at Tulane and the state response personnel.
- ID Epi staff will contact individuals whose blood was collected to determine preference for immediate testing or banking of samples.
- ID Epi staff will directly communicate test results to individuals who opt for immediate testing in order to protect the confidentiality of health information.

Public Information

- Saturday February 7, 2015 a press conference was held regarding the incident.

Acronyms

Bpm-Burkholderia pseudomallei

CDC-Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

EPA-Environmental Protection Agency

IC- Incident Command

LDEQ- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality

TNPRC- Tulane National Primate Research Center

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UCG- Unified Command Group

USDA-United States Department of Agriculture